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Shoppers battling price index

By Scott Clark
Missourian staff writer

Food prices are rising faster for Mary Gillespie, 3300 Crawford St., than they are for Celia Clark of Rochepoint, and both probably are better off with their utility bills than the average urban consumer.

Exactly how quickly prices are rising for Mrs. Gillespie and Mrs. Clark is hard to determine, but there are figures for the average urban consumer. They are published monthly by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in the form of the consumer price index.

The index, says Reinhard Weglarz, an economist for the Kansas City Bu-

Insight

reau of Labor Statistics, is a measure of the price change of a relatively constant "basket of goods." The basket was devised with an average urban family in mind and encompasses 80 percent of the population.

"The problem," says Stephen Buckles, University of Missouri-Columbia assistant professor in economics, "is that nobody is average. Furthermore, when prices are rising, there is a tendency for people to shift away from the more expensive items to the less expensive ones. Because of this, the consumer price index will often overstate an individual's inflation rate."

Also, there are items in the market basket that don't affect all people. These items represent an average of a few one-shot purchases, such as housing, which many people don't experience all of the time.

John and Celia Clark have lived on their 135-acre (54 hectare) farm for 15 years. Mrs. Clark teaches at West Junior High, and her husband is a carpenter and part-time farmer. They have

Khomeini vows to fight to the end

New York Times

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini dismissed all peace proposals Tuesday night, declaring that Iran would fight "to the end and, God willing, shall be victorious."

In his broadcast, the 80-year-old revolutionary leader reinforced Monday's statement by Ayatollah Hashemi Rafsanjani, the speaker of Iran's Parliament, spurning the cease-fire and negotiations offered by Iraq's President Saddam Hussein.

"We will not compromise with him," Khomeini said. "We will not negotiate with them because they are corrupt. Only if they surrender, for the sake of Muslims we might consider something."

If we are killed then we have performed our duty, and if we kill again, we shall have acted according to our duty."

Khomeini's statement came after Iranian fighter-bombers resumed attacks on Baghdad, the Iraqi capital.

Iraq's French-run Tammuz Nuclear Research Center near Baghdad was bombed and damaged in a surprise attack by low-flying Iranian planes Tuesday, according to a spokesman of the French Embassy in Baghdad.

The spokesman, who was quoted by French correspondents in the Iraqi capital, said the damage was confined to outlying buildings and the main installations were not touched. There were no casualties, he said.

According to the spokesman, about 70 French technicians were still at the Tammuz Center Tuesday but were withdrawn after the attack. Before the Iraqi-Iranian fighting several hundred French technicians and personnel were believed to have worked at the center, which is located at Ahtar, some 20 miles (32 kilometers) east of Baghdad.

INA, the official Iraqi news agency, reported that Iranian planes had attacked an oil-refined power station at Dura south of Baghdad but it did not mention the attack on the Tammuz facility. The attacks reportedly killed 11, injured more than 80 and set two storage tanks afire.

The air attacks, the first on Baghdad in three days, came while Pakistani President Zia was in the Iraqi capital to bring about a ceasefire. He had gone first to Tehran, where he was told that the Iranian government rejected a ceasefire as long as Iraqi forces were on its soil. Iraq has declared its willingness to call a ceasefire now.

With Khorramshahr, Iran's oil port, Ahad, its oil refinery, and Ahwaz, capital of Khuzestan Province, reported under Iraqi attack again Tuesday, the ayatollah urged inhabitants to "resist with dignity and courage and not flee."

Most of the inhabitants of Khorramshahr were

said to have fled last week when the city came under heavy Iraqi artillery and air attacks, but Iranian Revolutionary Guards were reportedly continuing to hold out in the center of the city.

Iraqi special forces using tanks and other heavy weapons also reportedly attacked Ahad, the huge refinery complex that has been heavily damaged by artillery and snelling from tanks.

It was the first time the Iraqi special forces were mentioned in a dispatch from the front line. Specialists here said that these elite units of the Iraqi army had been kept out of the nine day-old war so far. Their commitment to battle could amount to a significant escalation of the fighting on the Iraqi side, the specialists said.

Iraqi forces were reported to have resumed street fighting in Ahwaz and Dezful Tuesday. The center of Ahwaz was still in the hands of Iranian Revolutionary Guards and army units Tuesday night, according to Western correspondents in Tehran who were still able to get calls through to residents of the embattled city.

In a related development, Secretary of State Edmund S. Muskie held an unexpected meeting Tuesday with Iraq's foreign minister, Saadun Hamadi, with each assuring the other that the war in the Persian Gulf must be contained.

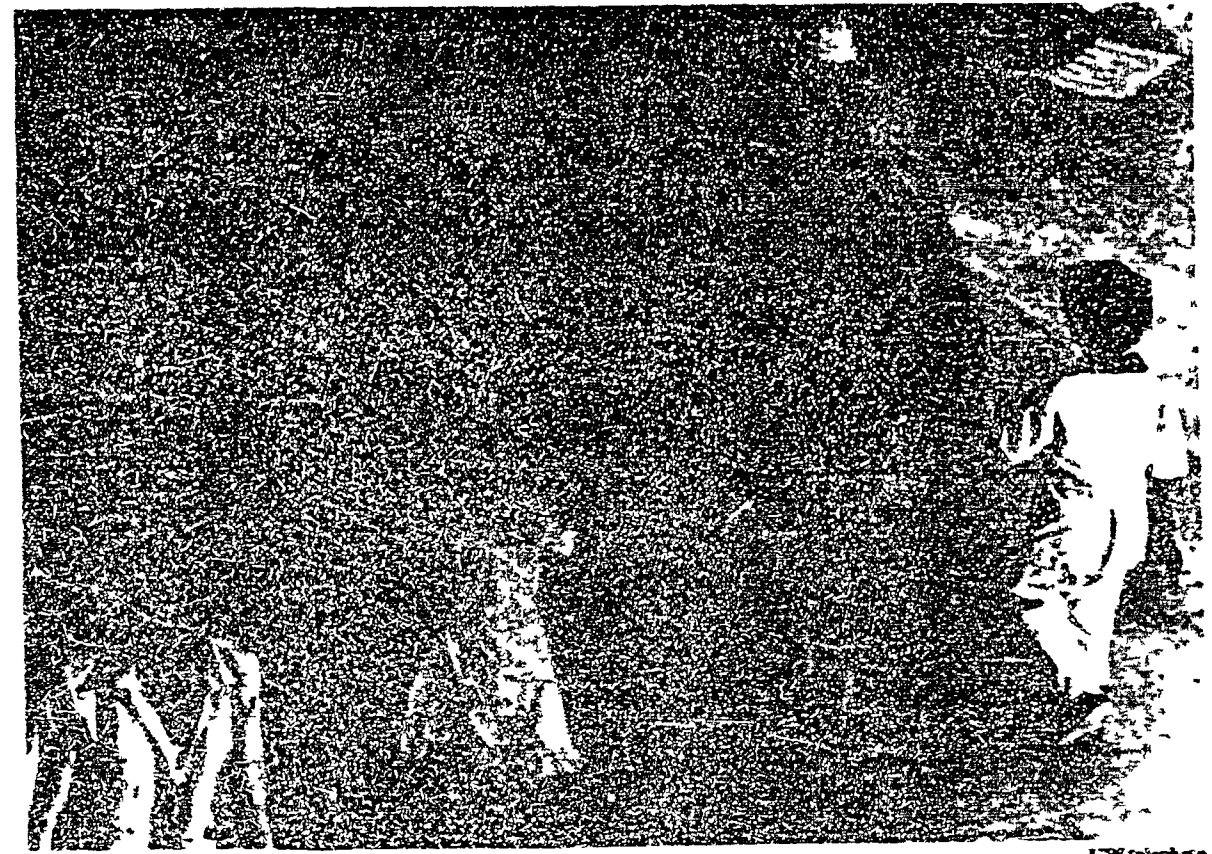
After the 35-minute session here, Muskie told reporters that Hamadi had insisted that the Baghdad regime sought only "limited objectives" and had expressed concern about "the dangers of escalation."

The meeting was the first between high-level officials from the two nations since Hamadi met Muskie's predecessor, Cyrus R. Vance, two years ago. Iraq broke off diplomatic relations with the United States after the 1967 Middle East war and has repeatedly rejected American offers to resume them.

A major concern of the Iraqi minister, Arab diplomats said, was that Washington might be considering a deal to supply spare parts for Iran's American-supplied weapons in exchange for release of the 52 American hostages held by the Iranians. The State Department spokesman, John H. Trotter, said Hamadi had raised the issue of the hostages but would not give more details.

In talks with other diplomats at the United Nations, Hamadi insisted that the war would not expand and that it would end when the Iranians suffered from a loss of irreplaceable war materials.

Muskie's concern with Iraq's objectives reflects a fear that the war might spread eastward and close off the Persian Gulf, through which 60 percent of the world's oil trade moves. In an act of desperation, Iran, not Iraq, might be tempted to block the vital waterway, Western envoys believe.



A lull in the fighting in the war with Iran gives this Iraqi soldier time for a walk with his family in the Iraqi border town of Basra.

U.S. early warning aircraft sent to Gulf

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The United States Tuesday sent four sophisticated airborne warning and control aircraft on a non-stop flight to Saudi Arabia to bolster the air defenses of the Persian Gulf area.

Defense Department spokesman Thomas Ross told a Pentagon news conference the aircraft, known as AWACS, will be used "purely for defensive purposes" and the United States "unequivocally reaffirms its position of neutrality" in the Iran-Iraq conflict raging north and east of Saudi Arabia.

Ross said the United States was responding to a request from the Saudi government in ordering "the temporary deployment of Airborne Warning

and Control Systems aircraft to Saudi Arabia. They will be used to track aircraft for the purpose of providing additional warning for Saudi Arabian defenses."

Iran, in warning the Persian Gulf states not to support Iraq, has triggered fears it might attack oil installations in Saudi Arabia and the smaller Gulf states.

Ross said one of the E-3A AWACS had already left Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma before noon and the other three radar and computer-packed aircraft were leaving "in a matter of hours" on the 17-hour flight.

A number of support transports with additional equipment and some 300 ground personnel will follow.

County Court refuses to back down on cost of computer proposal

By Edna Brewer
and Mike Phillips
Missourian staff writers

The Missouri State Tax Commission won't get the letter it wants from the Boone County Court this week. Instead, the court decided Tuesday just the opposite of what was requested is going to the commission.

The commission, which last week disapproved the county's tax reassessment plan, asked for a letter deleting a proposal for between \$180,000 and \$290,000 to beef up computer facilities used in the reassessment survey. The state is slated to pay half the cost of the reassessment, but the commission decided the state shouldn't spring for the new computer hardware and personnel training.

But the letter sent Tuesday doesn't back down on the computer proposal. Instead, all three judges of the court, plus County Tax Assessor Don Fenton, signed a statement telling the commission that it will have to be the one who has a change of mind.

"We are highly disturbed by this unexplainable reluctance for approval and are beginning to suspect a move to deprive Boone County of reimbursement intended and enacted by the Legislature and Senate of the State of Missouri," said the letter, which was prepared by Presiding Judge Bill Frech.

The letter was signed by Frech, Fenton, Northern District Judge J. Richard Farmer and Southern District Judge Carolyn Lathrop at Tuesday's court meeting.

Statewide county tax reassessments are being conducted under an order from Missouri's Supreme Court. The state legislature appropriated funds to cover half the project's cost, but the

tax commission's hesitance to help fund the computer facility could endanger the share of state money slated to come to Boone County.

County officials say the expanded computer capabilities — software, personnel training and possibly some hardware — are necessary to carry out the reassessment.

"I can't understand why they would not go along with us on this computerization when it would cause us to keep an incredibly accurate and ongoing reassessment," Mrs. Lathrop said.

Boone County has revised its plan several times to meet the requirements of the commission, Frech said in the letter. The plan already had been sent back to the drawing board once by the commission, the letter said.

Mrs. Lathrop said she is more than highly disturbed "at the state's latest rejection of the plan."

"I would have used even harsher language (in the letter)," she said at the meeting. In other business, the court deferred action on a plan to issue bonds that would finance low-interest home mortgages. The court felt that a recently released study of the project did not furnish all the information needed to make a final ruling.

The court also considered helping fund an assessment survey for social services in the county, and, though no decision was made, the judges appeared uncertain of the project's merits.

The \$44,000 proposal, which would be jointly funded and administered by the City of Columbia, United Way, the state and the county, would pinpoint areas in which new services are needed and help service agencies spend their money efficiently.



Dave Daugherty spends one hour putting on makeup which transforms him into Dr. Pockets, a hospital clown



Good medicine

Former patient uses laughter to speed the recovery of others

By Jody McPherson
Missourian staff writer

On July 19, 1978, Dave Daugherty left the hospital in a wheelchair — one month earlier than doctors had projected — after a brain tumor operation which left him unable to walk or talk. One week later, the 29-year-old rode in the Boone County Fair Parade as a clown.

The recovery and subsequent sharing is just one example of what Daugherty, known to many as "Dr. Pockets the Clown," is all about — determination, love and laughter.

"I have a lot of philosophies," he said, "one of which is the three-L philosophy. I asked myself, 'What is life?' Life is love. 'What is love?' Love is life. 'What is the love of life?' The love of life is laughter."

Laughter has been a big plus for him during his recuperation.

"If you can't laugh at yourself, you can't laugh at anything," he said.

And that's what he does — laughs at himself.

"When I fall down, when I do or say something silly, it's almost a way of excusing myself," he said. "And sometimes it's a pressure release."

If laughter were a saving grace, love layed an indescribable role.

"I'm always a great advocate of actions speak louder than words," Daugherty said. "I was in the hospital for three months. I (his wife, Jackie) was there every day. I don't know how you can express the support she gave me any better than that."

Dave's physical condition has improved considerably in the two years since his operation. He now walks with a cane. Last year he began jogging

with a neighbor, a 65-year-old woman. Other women soon joined the two.

Now he's started walking in town, so he doesn't go with the ladies as often. "I'm faster than the ladies now," he joked, "but they could still outrun me. They could outwalk me for the first mile — or even the first four — but after that, I'd pass them standing still."

Mrs. Daugherty, a fifth-grade teacher at Two Mile Prairie School, also is a jogger, so sometimes the two exercise together.

"She's always getting after me for slowing her down," he teased. "I say, 'go ahead, but let's go eight miles.' That's when she backs down."

He uses a tape recorder to improve his speech. "I sound completely different on tape than how I hear myself talking. To me, I talk as I always have."

Although his condition has improved, he still is unable to return to work as an agricultural economist. So he lives out his theory of love and laughter as a clown.

"Down deep one thing I always wanted to do was clown," he said. "Besides my philosophy, it's just something I always wanted to be."

He joined the Tiger Shrine Clowns three years before his operation. Now he clowns with the Shrine's some weekends and occasionally at the University of Missouri-Columbia Health Sciences Center.

Regularly he clowns as Dr. Pockets at Boone County Hospital, where he is "Head Cheerologist" in charge of funny bones.

"Everybody's got a funny bone — old, young, middle-aged, whatever,"

(See LAUGHTER, Page 16A)



Dr. Pockets, "Head Cheerologist" over funny bones, rests a moment outside a patient's door before making his next visit.

In town today

9 a.m.-3 p.m. Children's barnyard, "Ag Weez" activity, University's Livestock Center, Ashland Gravel Road.
7 p.m. "Potpourri of Local Women Artists," AWS variety show, Ellis Auditorium, University.
7:30 p.m. Volleyball, Central Missouri vs. University, Hearnes Center, University.



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